

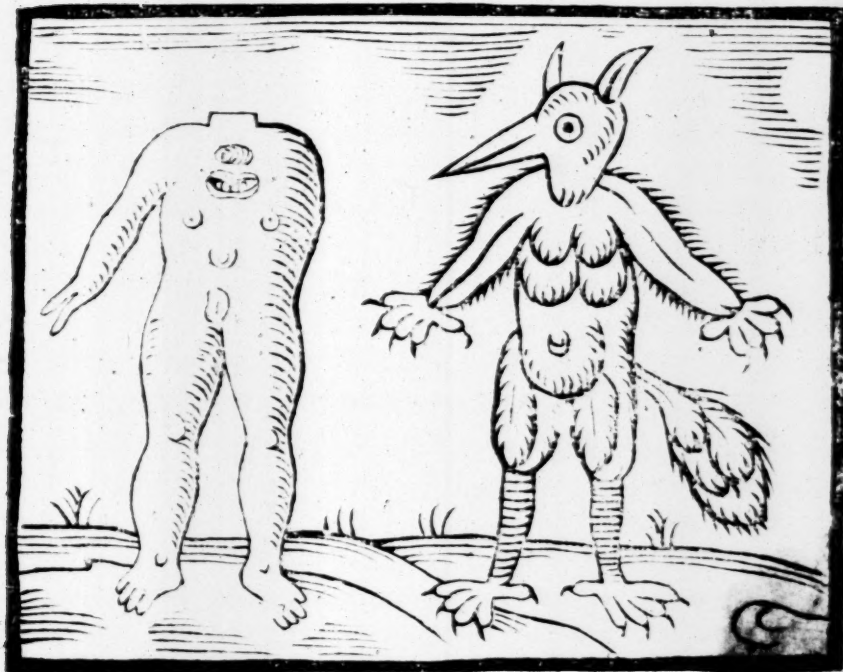
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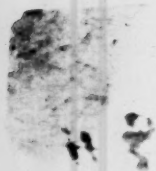
Gods Handy-vvorke in VVONDERS. § 4

Miraculously shewen upon two Women, lately deliuered of two
Monsters : with a most strange and terrible Earth-quake, by
which, Fields and other grounds, were quite
remoued to other places :

J. P. G. Land
The prodigious births, being at a place called *Perre-farme*, within a
quarter of a mile of *Feuertham* in *Kent*, the 25. of *Iuly*
last, being *S. Iames* his day. 1615.



London, Printed for I. W. 1615.





TO THE READER.



Gentle Reader, here is a liuely description of the mercifulnesse of our God, wherein thou mayest behold his Fatherly affection, shewed vnto vs Christians, in that he forewarneth vs to flie from the wrath to come, as it appeareth by this picture here before thine eyes; the matter declareth vnto thee, the most horrible and strangest birth of a child, that euer was heard or seene to bee borne of any Christian woman in our dayes: which wonderfull strange newes, God the Almighty doth send, to declare vnto vs his wrath, and heavy displeasure to be at hand, except wee speedily repent, and be heartily sorrie for our former wicked life. But let our hope bee fully reposed in the comfortable, and most sweet promises of the holy Ghost, who pronounceth by the mouth of his seruants the Prophets and Apostles, these words to our comfort, At what time soeuer a sinner repenteth from the bottome of his heart, I will put all his wickednesse out of my remembrance, sayth the Lord.

Let not these fearefull and terrible examples terrifie or feare thee, gentle Reader; for all these things, as it is written *Math. 24.* must needs come to passe, but the end is not yet: For Nation shall rise against Nation, and Realme against Realme, and there shall bee Famines, Pestilences, Thunders, and Earth-quakes in all places, before the terrible day of the Lord do come, in which day all things, as it is written, *1. Thes. 5.* That he shall come as a Theefe in the night: yet of his meere mercy doth hee vse these terrible sights as a messenger, and fore-teller of his wrath to come:

A:

For

To the Reader.

For as Saint *Paul* saith, When they shal say, Peace and safetie, then sodaine destruction commeth vpon them, as sorrow vpon a woman with childe, and they shall not escape in any wise. Therefore let vs not sleepe in security, as others doe, but let vs watch and be sober, for the day of the Lord is at hand, lest sodainly his wrath will come, and in the time of vengeance, he shall destroy vs : From the which, God the Father, for his Sonne Christe sake, deliuer vs.

AMEN.





GODS WONDERS in Women.



If God had from the beginning of the world made all creatures beautifull, and in their perfect shape, his glory had not bin so great: but as white sets off blacke, so these contrary colours in the creation of man, sometimes sayre, sometimes deformed, expresse the skill, power, and omnipotency of the great Master, in whose hand it lyes to make a Begger, or a King, a beautifull body, or a monstrous, and to fashion thee or me as vgly, as that wretched shape (whatsoeuer it be) at which with wonder and loathing thou so often castest an eye, haply of scozne.

Neither are prodigious Birthes (for that is the wombe, which now is in labour) simple or meere mistakings in God as if like a bungler in some common trade, he were not his Crafts-master: no, hee receiueth no lesse honour from the shape of a Monster, than from the rarest piece of beautie, that ever was out of earth; no, we are all but one piece of clay, and as the Potter pleases, so are the vessels made, some to base uses, and others to noble: neither is the vessel to repine and aske the workman: Why didst thou make me to no better purpose?

Monstrous births are Soales in nature, they are Wens sticking on her cheek to disgrace her: they are to man and woman mockeries of their pride: for why should either of them with Diues boast of their purple and rich cloathing, when an arme from heauen can strike them, in a moment, into the leprosie of Lazarus? What face and forehead which

Gods wonders in a Woman.

thou paintest for allurements, and so adornst it with ieiwels, to shew the glozy of thy riches, is moulded out of the same flesh and blood, of which a begger is framed, and which giueth fashion to a stigmatick, and mishapen creature.

To checke therefore our vicious condition, who are proud of that which must rot, and consume with wormes bred out of our owne corruption: and to punish the sinnes of some particular parents, God from time to time striketh the womb of the mother, and doubleth his curse, not onely in making her to bring forth with paine and dolour, but to bee deliuered with fearefull and horrid shapes, to astonish the beholders, and affright the sinfull breeders.

What man (vnlesse the hammers of hell continually beat vpon his heart to harden it) being a father to a son or daughter so blassed in the natiuitie, but would at sight of such a horror, fall downe and die with sorrow: or curse himselfe that euer his sinnes were so blacke and monstrous, as to moue the Almighty in his wrath to make his body, to be the begetter of an ugly Monster: Say such a childe should liue to call him father, how vnpleasing were the sound? The very name of, This is my sonne, should presently strike him cold to the heart, with, This is my shame; or rather, This is my sinne: For be assured, that albeit women with childe, may by blowes, or other misfortunes miscarry in their deliuey, and bring Infants into the world maymed in lumbes, or deformed in countenance, and this cannot chuse but be an vnspcakable grieve to the afflicted father and mother; yet when Gods owne fingers shall crush the lornes in the wombe, and set his markes of fearefull diuine vengeance, on the brest of an vnborne Babe, to turne it into a Monster, it is without all question, a reuenge and punishment for some extraordinary sinnes in the Parents. God neuer giues a sound payment but it is for a sure fault: when an Infant is borne dumbe, deafe, or in a lumb misshapen, he doth but shake the Rodde; but when the birth is prodigious and beyond Nature, the stripes are deep, so; then he is angered indeede, and at euery such blot hee drawes blood. Former ages herof haue had plentifull demonstrations:

Gods wonders in a Woman.

monstrations: and these latter dayes of ours are too pregnant in the like examples.

But omitting either of these, I beseech you (Christian Readers) to cast your astonished eyes vpon this late-begotten Object of horror and misery, lately sent into the World, in Kent, in a place not far from Feversham. For at a Farme called Perre, standing a quarter of a mile from the Towne before named, a poore wayfaring woman beeing great with Child, but not neere her time, seeing the night approaching, slept into an old Barne, there to take by her lodging. Where it pleased God (for the punishment of hers and her husbands sinnes) before her expected hower, to strike her with paynes, so that there shee fell in labour: And after many terrible throwes of terror and agonies, more then women commonly suffer in such extremitities, shee was after many tortures, and torments of Soule and body, deliuered of two Childzen: Twinnes they were, not of gladnes, but of shame and sorrow; not of Motherly embracements, but of affrights and wonder. A brother and sister they were, and yet I know not whether I may so tearme them: but if I could giue these names vnto them, yet neuer were Brother and Sister so vnlike to one another, or to those that did beget them. For the one was a woman perfectly framed in all her lumbes, lauing that the body was pynd away, and by that meanes, meagre and leane. But the second unfortunate burden that came along with her, was neither a Brother nor a Sister, but Both: for it was an Hermaphrodite; it was neither man nor woman, but such as you might call both man and woman: yet inclining rather to the forme of woman than man, handsomely composed from the Navill downewards, but a Donker bpwards, and below the knes: so; one leg was greater than the other; and either foote had no more then fowre toes. Head it had none, nor necke, but in the brest stucke out a bunched peece of deformed flesh, which like a flap, beeing to bee lifted vp, it carried vnderneath, the fashion of a mouth with a tongue, and choppes, yet were they neither. Aboue this deformed mouth, grew forth a tuft of hayre, the bresth
of

Gods wonders in Women.

of a tesson, and more, and a full inch in breadth: out of the right side, came a thing like an arme, altogether founlesse and without bones, of the true shape of a hand, having two fingers onely, towards either side one. It had no pappes, but prints and markes like them in their places. The length of this disproportioned creature was 13 inches, and in compasse 15 inches and a halfe. This was more fat and fleshy than the former.

The father of these unfortunate payre of Twines, named himselfe Henrie Haydnor: the Mothers name was Marghet. And being examined of their dwelling, they reported it had bene in Chelmesford in Essex. These prodigious Births were sent into the world on the 25. of July now last (being Saint Iames his day) and were buried at Preston a Towne neere Feuerham: to behold whom, so long as their bodies rested aboue earth, thousands of people came from all places, the misery of the sad mother, being relieved by much money, which out of Christian compassion, many bestowed upon her. GOD graunt that these and such like other fearefull demonstrations of Gods anger for our finnes, may call vs home to his fold. from whence worse than monsters and wild beasts we wander, to the everlasting slaughter of our Soules; from which the Lord of heaven deliuer vs. Amen.

Another strange wonder at *Arnheim*, a towne
in *Gelderland* the 23. of *Ianuarie*. 1615.

This ugly and fearefull Monster was boorne the xxiii. of *Ianuarie*, in the yeare of our Saviour Iesus Christ, a Thousand Sixe Hundred and Fiftene, an ensample to vs of the great wrath of GOD, because of our manifold and great sinnes, which now a dayes in euery place doth beare sway, as Cursing, Swearing, Blaspheyming of GOD, Whoredome, Drunkenesse, and the like, the which is truely to bee lamented. And euery man may let this fearefull Monster or token of God. be vnto him a looking glasse, whereby to amend his life, and repent: for
this

Gods wonder in a Woman.

this bitch was very wonderfull, and sene of many credible persons that doe witnesse hereunto, and hath been openly declared, and published throughout the whole Towne of Amheim, and chaunced as hereafter followeth.

A Citizens wife in the sayd Towne, a comely woman (whose name for certaine causes I let passe) being great with Child, and looked euery day, her Husband (being one that had almost spent al his goods amongst whores and thence) did not leaue the same, but without any regard of his Wife, or her tyme so neere, followed his naughtie accustomed vse. For he was rather amongst other naughtv company, then in his house, or by his wife, which did not a little grieve his wife, who often rebuked him, both with good and bad wordes: all would not helpe, it made him to be more earnest against her, and to vse her so much the worse, the which grieved her very sore. She being now great with Child, (as aforesaid,) vpon a tyme her husband accompanied himselfe againe with his companions and whores, yea in an open house, hee both druncke, daunced and leapt, both night and day, and thus vfed all manner of filthie concupiscence with them.

This came to his wifes eare, whereupon she hauing intelligence thereof, was in a great chafe, ranne thither in a furie, told him his owne, and rebuked him for it, and sayd: he should some thing regard her great belly, and tarry at home, and leaue the companie of those wicked women, for shee had but small goodnesse at his hands, and hath scarce to eate or drinke at home. Her Husband little regarding her wordes, was in a raging anger, and would haue beate his wife: the company which were in the sayd house, would not suffer him, and sayd, he should bethinke himselfe better, be more wiser, and not deale in such sorte with his Wife, seeing shee was great with Child, and looked euery day to be brought a bedde. Her husband in his great anger, and vnadvisedly made answer: she may beare the Deuill of hell. His wife on the other side being sore vered, answered thereto, I would I might beare a Deuill, so should I once be rid of this woe & miserie, wherewithall thou dost so vex me, so; thou wilt by no means
B leaue

Gods wonders in Women.

leane thy wylde hunting, but be alwaies in their companie, both drincken and halfe madde, the which I twofull woman must both heare and see.

Thus in her anger she returned home againe, and shortly after the time came: as sone as the neighbours and Midwife were come, shee began for very great paines to cry out fearefully, and not long after was brought a bed of this twoful Monster, with so fearefull proportioned limmes: the which as soone as the woman was deliuered thereof, it ranne underneath the bedde. The proportion of his body and lims was as heereafter followeth, and was seene of many persons, both men and women, which witness the same openly.

First, this Child being a Monster, was ouer his whole body very rough with haires, and all blacke, except his belly which was like a Swanne.

Secondly, the two feete vpon the which it did stand, were like to a Peacocks feete.

Thirdly, his eyes were to behold, fearefull, for they shined like fire, and were very great.

Fourthly, he had a mouth like vnto a Storcke or Crane, altogether blacke and very fearefull to behold.

Fifthly, it had a taile like vnto an Ore.

Sixtly, it had two hornes vpon his head, which hung ouer him.

Seuenthly, it had in steade of hands and fingers, clawes like vnto a fowle.

In summe it was not found in any point like to a Christen body: but was very fearefull and horrible to behold.

After that it had now (with great trembling and feare) been seene of many men in the towne, and euery man astonied thereat, in the end they smothered it betwixt two beds and so killed it.

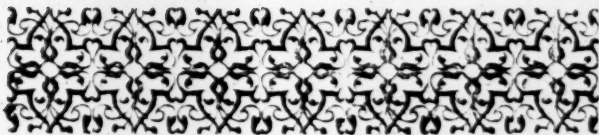
My brother in Christ, and Reader hereof, let not this which is here declared, seeme a fable vnto thee, for this and the like wonders, many haue been heard of heere and there, as Monsters by Sea, signes in the Ayre, both of men and cattell.

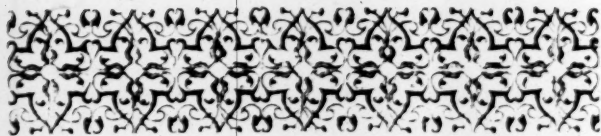
By this we do perceiue and marke, that the Lords coming

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ming is at hand, and that shortly hereupon will follow the iudgement day, whereas we must not onely giue account of our sinnes, but also of all baine works, words, and deedes. For now a dayes the common sort of people are wholly bent to wicked companie, whereas is cursing, swearing, eating, drinking, breaking of Tiedlocke, and whoredome, like as was with this aforesayd man of Arnhem: god people amend your sinfull liues, and call to God for grace.

Also this may be a looking glasse vnto euery wedded woman, whereby to refraine casting out of such vniuersed words, like as did this aforesayd wife, her time of deliuey bring so neere, but rather to haue patience, by pacifying her wrath, and comunt all matters to almighty GOD, that hee may amend all that, which in her husband is amisse, also to pray for him, that it wil please God so to turne his heart, that he may acknowledge his sinnes, and so amend his sinfull life. The almightie GOD, wonderfull in his creations, grant vs all his grace, that wee may amend our wicked liues, confesse his power, and haue euerlasting life in Iesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





A
TRUE DISCOURSE OF THINGS
happened by an Earthquake, the 1. of March 1615.
according to the ancient supputation, in the pla-
ces adioyning to the lake of Geneua, otherwise called
Lacus Lemanus: and especially in the villa-
ges of hic Corberye, and Iuorne, which
are perished.

Sithence that **G O D** speaketh vnto vs by all his
workes, our duty is, not to passe ouer lightly that
which he causeth vs to heare: but rather to consi-
der it so well and attentiuely, that the whole be refer-
red to that end, vnto the which it appertaineth. He hath
spoken vnto vs long time sithence, by his holy woꝝd,
published and preached in these latter dayes so faithfu-
ly, that we may say, that those which haue liued before
vs, doe followe vs in this, very farre off. But alas!
the more he speaketh, the lesse we heare, and the hearts
which ought to relent, doe ware the more hard; yea in
steade of yeelding willingly vnto his obedience, there is
such a rebellion in the most part of men, that a great
number of them make themselues vtterly vnapt to
learne.

Neuerthelesse, for all this hee ceaseth not to set be-
fore vs, that which is to the furtherance of our salua-
tion, as well by his promises (whose effects are felt and
perceiued in the hearts of those, which loue him and feare
him) as by his threatenings, by the which his will is, to
terrifie

A Discourse of an Earthquake.

terrifie the hypocrites contentners of his Patience, the more to increase their condemnation. Indeede, if being admonished, threatened and corrected, they shall perseuer in their wickednesse, without doubt, God will continue his iustice, and display his true and seuerer iudgement in this world, to the continuance of it euertlastingly in the world to come. It is most certaine, that on what side soeuer a man turneth himselfe, he may perceiue the signes of the wrath of God, ingraued in al his creatures, whole age and wearinesse in the seruice of men, in their corruption, requireth nothing more then to be deliuered from the oppression which they feele, through the wickednesse of such as abuse them, in dishonouring God, and following their wicked will.

The heauens are witnesse, the ayre, the water, and the earth crieth nothing else. The plagues and infectious diseases, which haue almost vniuersally d the whole world, beare witnesse hereof. The forren and ciuill warres which haue destroyed, and doe yet destroy the earth, doe declare it. The dearthes and famines which haue brought, and do bring to ruine many realms, doe shew the like. Neuerthelesse they laugh, and mocke, no lesse then in the daies of Noe, whereas they should rather prepare the Arke to saue themselves, when as the flood of the lake and eternall iudgement shall light vpon all creatures: for it seemeth to be euen already at hand. This Arke is vniuersall repentance, which hauing the true feare of God for the foundation, causeth men to be grieved and sorrowfull for their wickednesse past, with careful and most earnest studie of well doing, for the time to come. So this repentance God doth call vs, by sundry and diuers waies, especially by the signes aforesaid by our Saviour Iesus Christ, in the 24. Chap. of Saint Mathew, which signes in these later daies, hee dayly setteth before vs as soe runners of his glorious coming.

A discourse of an Earth-quake.

Now our meaning is not, to speake of things happened far hence, or long sithence, neither of impressions or sights seene in the ayre within these few Moneths, such as are burning flames, the Sun doubled, vea tripled, or yet of thundring or lightning in the midst of winter: but onely of the Earth-quake happened the first of March, 1615. according to the ancient Almanack in the countreys of Lyons, Maconois, Daulphin, Sauioy, Piedmont, Valles, Swysse, and Burgonny. Nor yet to discourse of the causes and effects thereof, as the naturall Philosophers, according to their profession, are wont to doe: but to warne every one, that seeing the earth shaketh, we may take occasion every one of vs generally, and particularly, to be affraide and quake in our hearts, considering the multitude of sinnes, which ouerwhelme vs in this cursed time and extreme olde age of the world: And also that it is not here beneath that we must looke for our assurance, seeing that there is nothing firme or stable but aboue in heaven. For as histories witness vnto vs, there haue seldome bene such signes, but that there haue followed shortly after most great and cruell calamities, common and generall to all estates. And not to speake of thinges befallne elsewhere, wee will briefly touch such things as are chaunged in these quarters neere to the lake Lemanus, leauing vnto others, to doe the like of that which happened to every one in his Countrey.

The 1. of March 1615. halfe an houre before 12. of the day, the skie being most cleare and faire, the Sunne shining, all sodainely came the Earthquake, which lasted not aboue 10. or 11. minutes by the clocke, for that one time. It was especially perceiued by the clattering of the windowes, and craching of the houses, shaking of trees, and stone walles, with a great noyse and hollow sound in the ayre.

In many places there fell downe chimnies, the
walles

A Discourse of an Earthquake.

walles raised and rinen, as amongst the rest at a towne called Bonne in Fussigny, at Thonon, Euyan, S. Mauris in Chablage, Lausanne, Morges, and many other places.

At Geneva fell downe three or foure chimnies, and a stone wall of an olde building, without any other extraordinary thing chauncing: such is the singular preiudice of God. Although one hath most falsely published (at which hee may tremble and blush for shame, to have lived so manifestly in feigning) which hee hath written of the blacknesse of the Lake, which he sayth to have bene the Saturday before: Item, of the walles and houses du bour de four, and of the continuance of the Earthquake for the space of two houres long, which was often renewed with whirle-windes. But to returne to our matter, not farre from thence thers haue bene other accidents, no lesse lamentable then memorable.

For vpon Monday being the second of March, the said Earth-quake renewing his force in the places of the higher side of the Lake, and beeing redoubled the Tuesday following, both at morning and at night, with winds and snowe, chanced that which followeth, in a place subject to the Souerainty of Berne, distant from the said side of the Lake two houres iourney, from a towne called Aille, about foure gunne shottes: and this happened the Wednesday following, being the fourth of March, betwixt nine and tenne of the clocke in the morning. A great-quantitie of earth rowling (euen as it were a huge streame of raging water, falling from the toppes of a most high Rocke) from the tops of the Mountaines, glaunced a farre off, and as some say about one league, the which was not so much by the naturall motion, (which is from a high place vnto a lowe) as being diuened by windes and exhalations mingled amongst it.

This

A discourse of an Earth-quake.

This earth was so shaken, that in one instant it covered the places neere the valley, upon the which it fell, and in carrying before it all the earth that it mette, the same was cleane taken away. the which was more easily brought to passe, by reason that it was moued by the Earthquakes & stirring winds, aswell as the first earth which shaked it: so that it chanced in this, as commonly we see upon the lake of tempestuous Sea, whereas one waue is violently shaken by an other. The descent & valley did not onely adioyne themselves vnto it, but that which is most strange, the little hilles upon low places, and the valleyes were shaken likewise. There is furthermore to be noted, that the place wher this reuoluing was, is right against a Cliffe caused by many hilles and hye places, that are commonly whereas the rockes of the hilles meete and touch together.ouer against, in the yssue of this Clyffe, was the higher side of Cozbery, a little village or hamlet, containing about 8. houses, 25. barnes, & 3. water milles. The earth fell from above upon the said village so violently, that in a moment all was covered, one house excepted, whereas a thing most worthy to bee marked, chanced. The master of the said house, being astonied and amazed, through the exceeding great noyse, which he heard, said to his wife, he did verily beleue the end of the world to bee come, and that it was necessary to pray to GOD to haue mercy on them. Whereupon without delay kneeling downe in their house, they perceiued such fruit and profit of their prayers, that the earth which rowled as is aforesayd, passed ouer their house in a manner as a huge waue, without any harme to the house, or any within it, sauing that, the Pastor hauing his hat pearced, was hurt in the head. As concerning the other houses and barnes, they were all throtled downe, and almost covered with earth. There chanced also in the sayd place, another thing not to bee omitted, that is to say,

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say, a child of a quarters age was found safe and alive in the cradle (as he is yet, thanks be to G D D) having his mother found dead by him. The manner of it was this, the mother upon the noise of the house falling, seeking to save her Child, clasped the cradle in her armes, wherewith all the house fell, and she most pittifully bruised, was found dead, the Child being alive and safe, as is aforesayd. The like befell to a maid child of a yeere old, which was found whole and alive among the ruines of a house. As touching the water milles, they were all broken, and in one of them happened another strange thing: for being very low situated, the areltree with the wheale, were found whole together in the top of a hill, which was higher then the sayd Mill 500. paces or stappes. The number of men which perished in this Village 29. of Barnes 25. water milles 2. of yeere by revenues of Farmes within the towne, called in latine, *Pecunia Vibana* 7. of Vines 23. acres: of tunnes of Wine 82. of Beate, Bullocks and Calves 81. of horses, mares and colts 16. of Sheepe 73.

The lower the earth descended, the more this mis-happe increased: for falling upon the next village, called Luorn, which was lower, and at the foote of the hill, whereupon the sayd Corbery stood, there perished of men 93. or a 100. persons, (some affirme more) of houses 62. Barnes 101. fulling milles 3. of Vines 39. Acres: of Tuns of Wine 236. of Beate 166. of calves 112. Horses and Mares 43. Sheepe 108. also great abundance of Corne, all kind of fodder for Cattell, with great quantity of household stuffe: to bee briefe, this Village was well furnished with all kind of things, and was esteemed one of the best in all these quarters.

The situation of it was upon a descent not steepe, but slope and stretched out from the East to the West. The ground was so fertill, that they received every yeere 3. crops, as Wheat, Millet, & Turnops. Furthermore, a

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mongst

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mongst them were neither poore, nor begger, but euery one euen to the very least, liued on their goods and labour, beeing a people very thining and painefull, void of all euill practices, as vsurie, contentions and suites, as all their neighbours doe witnesse of them.

It is said also, that the aforesaid falling of the earth, was so sudden, that no pellet out of any gunne could be moze swift, then all this said removing was past. Other report, that a farre off they beheld about 20. persons, the most being women, and children, which coming downe a hill to saue themselves, were ouertaken, and ouerwhelmed with the sayd falling of the earth.

The most that perished were women and Children, by reason that most of the men were at labour in the fields. In this great affliction, GOD hath vsed such mercy, that of euery household, some were saued, either men or Children. Moreover, besides the most fearefull and terrible confusion, which the falling of the earth caused, beeing mingled with great stones that mounted in the ayre, there was seene infinite sparkles of fire, with a great and darke clowd, from the which did procede a most strong smell of Brimstone.

At the length the earth staid it selfe, turning together 2. houses, which are at this present time standing whole, laden on one side with earth, to the halfe height of the walles, without any oyle or hurt: besides these, there remaineth yet 7. or 8. houses, with as many barnes and other countrey houses.

The length of this descent is from the toppe of the mountaine, vnto the 2. sayd houses. The breadth is of 12. Arpantes, the depth is in some places lesse then in some other: towards the side it is about two mens depth. It is a marueilous thing, that in all this descent so extended, whereas the houses were, it is so plaine, that it seemeth as a portion of earth beene newly tilled and harrowed, without any appearance of the ruine of the
the

A discourse of an Earth-quake.

the sayd houses, no more then if there neuer had bene any: and that which is more, few or no stones are to be seene. From the place where the remouing toke his beginning, vnto the 2. houses, where it rested, it is all as but one ruine, where there is but one house to be seene.

In Aille the middle rose tiles of the Church fell downe, without that any other moued. Not farre from this place fell a rocke downe from a hill, the which was stayed in a cliffe of the said hill, without any hurt. Many chimneys fell downe, many toals were riuen, by reason of the reiteration of the earthquake, vpon sundry daies. Hard by a place called Morteru, the Lake hath exceeded his ordinary bredth twenty paces, hauing carried away a portion of a Vine-yard, the which they say was swallowed vp by opening of the earth.

Some say, that at a Towne called Ville Neufue and in other places, adioyning vnto the same, the Earthquake was so violent, that whole tunnes of wine were raised vpon their end. At Veuey many chimneys were cast downe, many houses loosened, and amongst the vines de l'Auau, certaine walles were ouerthrowne. The Magistrates of Bearne, in whose soueraignty these sayd things happened, haue appointed men, or officers to looke and prouide for those men, that yet liuing haue lost their friends and substance.

Now let euery man iudge of these things, as the feare of God shall direct him. It is well knowne what the Philosophers doe affirme to bee the causes of such Earth-quakes; but if one doe weigh the diuersity of their opinions, it will be found that we must seeke further for the causes hereof, then in the starres, fire, waters, vapours, exhalations and winde included in the bowels of the earth, to the which they cleaue full fast: And that we may come vnto the cause touched by the Prophet, In the 114. Psalm, where hee sayth: Before

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the face of the Almighty the earth leaped, as the scarred Hammes in the fieldes, and the hilles like trembling Lambes.

Furthermoze, to iudge of those whom God hath so visited, we must remember, that it doth onely appertaine vnto God, to whom the iudgement must be left, without concluding, that those of Iuorne were greater sinners then we, according to that which our Saviour Iesus Christ teacheth vs, in the thirteenth Chapter of Saint Luke, speaking of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with the sacrifices, and of those vpon whom the Tower of Sylo fell: but wee must perswade our selues that except we do repent, we shal likewise perishe. God is not vntrust, but contrariwise his workes are as a bottomlesse pit, vnsearchable to men, into the which we ought neuer to enter, but to stay our selues in worshipping with reuerence his incomprehensible wisdom. Surely, if we doe not condemne all those, which were drowned by the waters of the flood; neither all those which were destroyed by the fire falling vpon Sodome, and other places adioynning vnto it (for there were many children innocent in the transgression of the aged): farre lesse ought we to haue an euill suspition of those, which were not so giuen to sinne as other men.

Laodicea, Colossi, and Hieropolis were ouerwhelmed by an Earthquake. In Asia first fourtene Cities, and sitthence twelue. In Thracia 11. and in Affrica one hundred haue bene destroyed by Earthquakes heretofore. Nicodemia, Antiochia, Alexandria, Constantino-ple, and other places infinite haue bene hazarded by Earthquakes. And who shal say, that so many condemned places as were then in the world, should rather haue escaped; then the places aforesaid? Certainly, if God should haue respect vnto the sinnes of men, one village should not haue felt his wrathfull hand: but all the world,

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world, especially the great Cities, whereas the great
and wicked sinners bee, and the most fearefull sinnes
committed. But it pleased God, to beate the Dogge be-
fore the Lion, to punish the least sinners before the grea-
test, to cut downe the naturall Diue, before the wilde,
and the graine wood before the seare.

Let vs then wonder at the great patience of God,
that beareth so much with this world, and let vs so ac-
count of his iustice, that it be hereafter to haue recourse
to his mercie, the which I pray him, that he will

vouchsafe to shewe vs, through Iesus

Christ, his onely Sonne, our

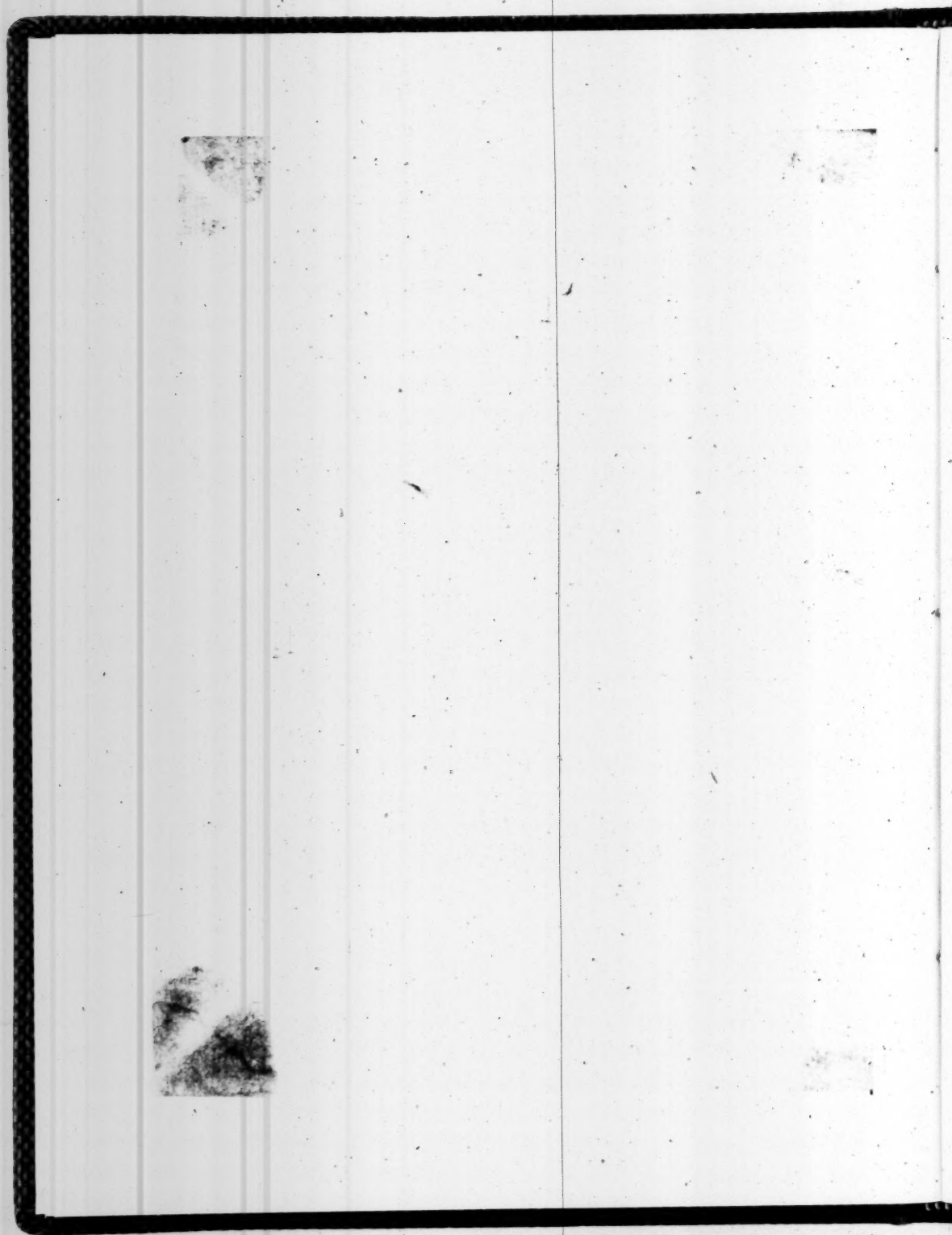
Lord and Mediatour.

S. Augustine.

*Mieux vaut le tremblement des humbles,
que l'assurance des Orgueilleux.*

Better is the trembling of the lowly,
then the assurance of the proud.

FINIS.



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